

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/LC:JDROSENTHAL/AID/EA/L:TLEWIS

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R 062301Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186150

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, EGEN, EAID, LA, US

SUBJECT: FUTURE US POLICY TOWARD FEOF

REFS: A. VIENTIANE 5059; B. STATE 172367; C. VIENTIANE
5027

1. WE NOTE YOUR COMMENTS IN REFS A AND C ABOUT NEED FOR
OUR TAKING PASSIVE ROLE IN FUTURE FEOF ACTIVITIES AND GEN-
ERALLY AGREE. US REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD NOT TAKE INITIATIVE
IN CONVENING OR ENCOURAGING MEETINGS OF DAB OR OTHER FUND
BODIES, ALTHOUGH HE SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THOSE CONVOKED
AT REQUESTS OF OTHER DONORS OR PGNU. WE SEE NO NEED TO
DISASSOCIATE OURSELVES COMPLETELY FROM NORMAL FEOF OPERA-
TIONS AS LONG AS OUR PARTICIPATION REMAINS LOW-KEY AS YOU
SUGGEST. INFORMATION OBTAINED AT DAB AND OTHER MEETINGS
IS STILL OF SOME INTEREST AND VALUE HERE.

2. WE LEAVE TO YOU WHETHER OR NOT TO SEEK AVOIDANCE OF
DAB CHAIRMANSHIP NEXT MONTH. PAST EXPERIENCE INDICATES
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THAT CHAIRMAN OF THE MONTH CAN BE AS ACTIVE OR PASSIVE AS

HE WISHES, (E.G. CALLING MEETINGS ONLY AT REQUEST OF OTHER DONORS), AND SUCH A MOVE MAY ONLY SUCCEED IN CALLING MORE ATTENTION TO OUR LOW AID POSTURE THAN IT IS WORTH. HOWEVER, IF IT CAN BE DONE UNOBTUSIVELY, WE SEE SOME MERIT

IN ASSUMING A LESS PROMINENT ROLE DURING PROJECTED IMF REVIEW.

3. AID OFFICER HERE DISCUSSED WITH IMF/WASHINGTON STAFF MEMBER IMF PARTICIPATION IN PROJECTED LATE SEPTEMBER REVIEW OF ECONOMY AND DATA AND ASSESSMENTS OBTAINED FROM IMF RESREP VIENTIANE. TIMING OF REVIEW, NATURE OF IMF PARTICIPATION, AND TO SOME EXTENT, CONNECTION OF REVIEW WITH DEPOSIT OF FINAL PORTION OF THREE DONORS' SUBSCRIPTIONS, WERE NEWS TO HIM. IMF HAD RECEIVED DESIGNATION OF MINFIN RAJASOMBAT AND SECSTATE BOUTSABONG AS GOVERNOR AND VICE-GOVERNOR, RESPECTIVELY, FOR LAOS BUT HAD HEARD NOTHING FURTHER CONCERNING LAO DELEGATION TO IMF-IBRD ANNUAL MEETING AT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER.

4. CONCERNING PROSPECTS FOR ECONOMY, IMF/WASHINGTON EVEN MORE IMPRESSED THAN WE WITH SERIOUSNESS OF BUDGETARY IMBALANCE IN FACE OF ATROPHY OF IMPORT SECTOR AND OF REVENUES BASED ON IT AND WITH DRASTIC IMPLICATIONS OF MEASURES REQUIRED TO DEAL WITH SITUATION. STAFF MEMBER ALSO MENTIONED THAT NO REPLACEMENT HAS BEEN LINED UP FOR SMITH AS RESREP, SO THAT EVEN IF DISCUSSIONS WITH LAO DELEGATION AT ANNUAL MEETING LEAD TO DECISION TO REPLACE HIM, REPLACEMENT COULD NOT ARRIVE FOR SOME TIME. KISSINGER

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